

[0040] A system shown schematically in Fig. 5 involves manufacturing system (100), comprising several lines, in communication over the network with server (120), in turn coupled to data base (110) containing the program. The manufacturing system and the server (120) are also in communication over the network with at least one client device, the at least one client device permitting communication with the server (120), by a person (130) authorized to do so in order to access the program, the program also being accessible via the server (120) by the at least one operator through an interface associated with the manufacturing system. The occurrence of a revision to the program is detected over the network, and a determination is made as to whether the revision to the program was made by a particular one of the at least one authorized person. If the revision was not made by a particular one of the at least one authorized person, a message is sent over the network from the server to a client device to notify the particular person that the revision was made.

[0041] The various aspects of the present invention have been shown and described with reference to particular embodiments and numerous details have been set forth to aid in their understanding. These specific details, however, need not necessarily be employed to practice those aspects of the invention. Moreover, changes in form and details may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, the particular ordering of method steps may, in some instances, be varied or, the disclosed data structure rearranged or supplemented, while preserving its

content, without departing from the scope of this aspect of the present invention.

09/05/2000 10:00:00